

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are currently pending. Claim 17-29 have been canceled without prejudice; and Claims 1-6 and 8-16 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was objected to as containing an informality; Claims 1, 4, 13, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, regarding various questions of antecedent basis or clarity; and Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0049703 to Miyoshi et al. (hereinafter “the ‘703 application”).

Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Claim 1 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim. Claim 1 has been amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 1, 4, 13, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are rendered moot by the present amendment to those claims. In particular, Applicants note that Claim 1 has been amended to no longer recite a process indication. Further, Applicants note that the claimed instruction description identifies or specifies the process instruction description. Further, Applicants note that Claim 13 has been amended to clarify that the process instruction is sent to the apparatus. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claims 1, 4, 13, and 16.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an image forming apparatus for forming an image, comprising: (1) a receiving part configured to receive, from a requesting device, a ticket showing a use permission of an object data set, the ticket being obtained by the requesting device from a repository apparatus; (2) a sending part configured to send the received ticket to the repository apparatus and to receive, in response, a document identification corresponding to the object data set; (3) a process indication receiving part configured to receive, from the requesting device, a process instruction that requests execution of a process corresponding to the object data set; and (4) a process executing part configured to execute the process in accordance with a process instruction description specified by an instruction description identification indicated by the process instruction. The changes to Claim 1 are support by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) as anticipated by the '703 application is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

The '703 application is directed to a printing method that includes the steps of (1) creating, by a computer, a print control number and print format information of a web page provided by a web server, wherein the computer includes a web browser to which the web page is viewed; (2) transmitting to a printer connected to the computer, print information that includes the print control number and a print format information; (3) converting the web page into imaging data by the printer; (4) storing the print control number and imaging data in a memory of the printer; and (5) in response to a print execution command from the computer, printing imaging data corresponding to the specified print control number among the image data stored in the memory of the printer. As shown in Figures 8 and 9, the '703 application discloses interactions between a personal computer 100, a web server 50, and a printer 200.

¹ See steps S1-S8 in Figure 3 and the discussion related thereto in the specification on pages 23-25.

In particular, the steps disclosed on the left-hand side of Figure 8 are executed by the personal computer 100, while the steps disclosed on the right-hand side of Figure 8 are performed by the printer 200. As Figure 8 illustrates, the '703 application discloses that the computer 100 obtains a web page from the web server 50, displays the web page, and then creates a control number and print format information that is transmitted along with the web address to the printer 200, which obtains the web data from the web server, converts the web page into imaging data, and saves image data in association with the control number in a storage device. Further, as shown in Figure 8, the '703 application discloses that when the computer receives an instruction to print the web page from the user, the computer transmits a command to the printer, which then prints the previously stored image data.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '703 application fails to disclose a receiving part configured to receive, from a requesting device, a ticket showing a use permission of an object data set, the ticket being obtained by the requesting device from a repository apparatus; and a sending part configured to send the received ticket to the repository apparatus and to receive, in response, a document identification corresponding to the object data set, as recited in amended Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the '703 application does not disclose that the printer 200 receives, from the computer 100, a ticket showing a use permission of an object data set, wherein the ticket was obtained by the computer 100 from the web server 50, as would be required under amended Claim 1. Rather, the '703 application merely discloses that the personal computer 100 sends a control number, a format, and a web address, all of which were generated by the personal computer 100, to the printer 200. Further, regarding the rejections set forth on page 4 of the outstanding Office Action, Applicants note that the Office Action refers to steps 1134 and 1144 shown in Figure 8 of the '703 application. However, as Figure 8 makes clear, these two steps are executed by two different apparatuses. Accordingly, it is unclear to Applicants how the '703 application

can disclose the two elements recited in original Claim 1, which are part of the same image forming apparatus.

For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 patentably defines over the '703 application.

Independent Claim 12 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1 and has been amended in a manner analogous to the amendments to Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 12 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim.

Independent Claim 13 is directed to an information processing apparatus, comprising: (1) an obtaining part configured to obtain, from a repository apparatus, a ticket showing a use permission of an object data set; (2) a sending part configured to send the obtained ticket to an apparatus for executing a process corresponding to the object data set; (3) an identification obtaining part configured to obtain an instruction description identification specifying a process instruction description from the apparatus for executing the process, said instruction description identification setting process items; and (4) a process instruction sending part configured to indicate the instruction description identification obtained from the identification obtaining part and to send a process instruction instructing an execution of the process to the apparatus. The changes to Claim 13 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.²

As discussed above, the '703 application is directed to a printing method that includes formatting and pre-storing web pages on a printer for later printing. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '703 application fails to disclose an obtaining part configured to obtain, from a repository apparatus, a ticket showing a use permission of an object data set; and a sending part configured to send the obtained ticket to an apparatus for executing a

² See, e.g., steps S1-S5 in Figure 3 and the discussion related there to in the specification.

process corresponding to the object data set, as recited in amended Claim 13. The '703 application does not disclose that the PC 100 obtains from the web server 50, a ticket showing a use permission of an object data set, or that the PC 100 includes a sending part configured to send the obtained ticket to an apparatus for executing a process corresponding to the object data set, as required by Claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 13 (and dependent Claims 14 and 15) patentably define over the '703 application.

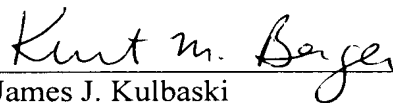
Independent Claim 16 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 13 and has been amended in a manner analogous to the amendments to Claim 13. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 16 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 12, 13, and 16 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '703 application.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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